



Brownfields 2009 Cleanup Grant Fact Sheet

Hawaii Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, East Kapolei, HI

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. In 2002, the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act was passed to help states and communities around the country cleanup and revitalize brownfields sites. Under this law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The Hawaii Department of Hawaiian Home Lands was selected to receive a brownfields cleanup grant. Hawaii (population 1,285,498) plans to redevelop the 404-acre East Kapolei II site, which includes the target cleanup site, into affordable homes for native Hawaiians on the Island of Oahu. Native Hawaiian families typically have significantly lower incomes, higher incidences of chronic diseases, and shorter life expectancies than other Oahu and state residents. The high cost of living on Oahu exacerbates the difficulty of meeting housing needs. The target site represents a hurdle to the planned redevelopment of East Kapolei II. Years of pesticide use at the site have left a legacy of contamination that continues to pose a health risk to area residents, farm workers who work the adjacent fields, and the environment. Cleanup of the site will decrease health threats and facilitate the redevelopment project, which is expected to provide about 1,000 affordable homes, 1,000 affordable rental units, schools, and parks for the community.

Cleanup Grant

\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the Hawaii Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for a brownfields cleanup grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to clean up the 0.6-acre East Kapolei Pesticide Mixing and Loading Area located off Palehua Road in the Ewa District of Oahu. The site and surrounding lands were used to cultivate sugarcane from around 1890 to 1994. Elevated concentrations of dioxins, furans, and other chemicals associated with agricultural pesticides have been found in soil samples. Grant funds will be used to construct a geomembrane liner with an asphalt or concrete cap over the site.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields Web site (<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>).

EPA Region 9 Brownfields Team
(415) 972-3091
EPA Region 9 Brownfields Web site
(<http://www.epa.gov/region9/brownfields>)

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(808) 620-9276

The information presented in this fact sheet comes from the grant proposal; EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of this information. The cooperative agreement for the grant has not yet been negotiated. Therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.